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FROM: Kika de la Garza

WASHINGTON, D C -- Most of us still regard November 11 as Veterans Day, and it will again become officially so if Congress enacts my bill on the subject. I was encouraged by recent approval by the Senate of a measure much like mine. If we are unable to get it through this year, we'll try again in 1975.

Since 1971, Veterans Day has been one of four Federal Monday holidays. It is observed on the fourth Monday in October. However, veterans organizations such as the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars are again this year saving their celebrations for November 11. They are determined to move the holiday back to that date.

It was originally Armistice Day, of course, marking the end of World War I, and was renamed Veterans Day in 1954. To millions of Americans, November 11 remains a day dedicated to honoring the veterans of all wars in which the United States has participated. In these wars, from the War of Independence through Vietnam, almost 44 million Americans were involved. As of the first of this year, more than 29 million of them were still living.

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EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS -- Before Congress went into recess for a month, a House-Senate conference committee agreed to raise payments under the GI Bill of Rights by a blanket 23 percent. In addition, the bill -- which will be sent to the White House after the recess -- proposed to grant veterans low-cost student loans and extend their period of eligibility.

Specifically, the new bill would raise the education grant for an unmarried veteran from \$220 a month to \$270. Veterans with dependents would get more. Veterans in school would be allowed to borrow up to \$600 a year from the Federal Government.

The period of eligibility for undergraduates is extended under provisions of the bill from 36 to 45 months. This would permit students to work their way through college at a more leisurely pace, which is important since so many of the ex-GIs find it necessary to drop out of college temporarily in order to earn some money.

The legislation is a tangible way of honoring veterans. And by providing them with improved educational opportunities it better equips them for making valuable economic and social contributions to American society.

* * *

CIVIL SERVICE JOBS -- The Federal service entrance examination, which served as a principal means of entry into the civil service, has been replaced by the professional and administrative career examination. The new examination, like its predecessor, will be a single written test used to fill a variety of entrance-level positions of a professional, administrative or technical nature.

In our area the test will be given next January 19 at Brownsville, Harlingen, Kingsville and McAllen. Applications to take the examination should be submitted in time to be received not later than December 20 at the Houston Area Office, U S Civil Service Commission, 702 Caroline Street, Houston 77002. Application blanks may be obtained at local post offices.

If you have a college degree or equivalent experience, this examination offers you the opportunity to compete for a wide variety of jobs in Federal agencies across the country. About 85 percent of these positions are filled outside the Washington, D C area. Most of the jobs filled through this examination do not require specialized education or training in a specific field. Training for the duties of the position is provided by the employing agency.

* * *

SCIENCE FOR LIVING -- That is the title of an interesting booklet giving some highlights of work carried on by the Agricultural Research Service of the Department of Agriculture. It shows how agricultural science serves all Americans. It helps consumers by providing them with newer and more convenient foods and fabrics. It helps industry by improving processing techniques and by developing better methods for packing, storing, and transporting farm products. It helps farmers to plant and harvest crops more efficiently and to produce more meat, milk and eggs on less feed.

Studies and experiments to do all these things are carried on constantly by the Agricultural Research Service. South Texas farm producers benefit from many of the Service's activities. So do processors and consumers.

The 68-page, illustrated booklet, "Science for Living," outlines progress made in many areas of agricultural research. Some copies of the publication have been made available to me for distribution in South Texas, and I will be glad to send one to any resident of the 15th Congressional District who requests it. Some fascinating reading here.

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VISITORS FROM HOME--Visiting my office from home this past week were Mr Jonathan Cardon of Mercedes; Mr Alfredo Garcia of Raymondville; and Captain Ben Yudesis of San Benito.

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